

# Staff Editorial

## Social media is our responsibility

Following numerous incidents and threats of school violence across the country, a number of schools have taken to hiring companies to monitor student social media to ensure student safety.

New Trier, however, has opted out, putting their trust in the student population. And this is where we need to step in.

Having privacy on social media and in our private lives is important. It gives us the chance to share our opinions freely, without fear of administrators combing through our 2 a.m. Twitter rants.

This freedom comes with a responsibility, for each and every student. Because the school isn't monitoring, it's our job to report any suspect behavior we see online that could threaten the safety of our school. Social media is our generation's territory and, therefore, it's our obligation to oversee it.

In middle and high school health classes, we're taught not to be a bystander--this applies to social media as well. If someone is being hurt or threatened, just scrolling past it is the same thing as walking past and not helping at all.

Every school is mandated to have an anonymous tip line, which is available to everybody including students, parents, and community members. NT's is accessible through the school website, and tips can be submitted via phone call or Google Form. Those who are uncomfortable or afraid to report something to a teacher can use these platforms to raise their concerns.

Social media monitoring companies have yet to prove that they work, but students looking out for one another can have success. For example, a student with depression posting something despairing may trigger their classmates to reach out to the social services department or their adviser, prompting the student to reach out for help.

Signs may be less obvious, though: like retweeting a disturbing post from someone else's account or sharing a one-second image of something menacing on Snapchat. We scroll through hundreds of images and read thousands of posts a day, but by just taking an extra second to think, we can recognize what's not quite right.

And by reporting to the school, or even just to your parents or friends to discuss and potentially take further action, we can help our fellow classmates, and possibly save lives.

Algorithms to detect potential threats can't compare to what students themselves are capable of seeing. A joke about how much someone hates their first-period class is a lot different than a legitimate threat, but a computer program could raise the same type of alerts for both incidents. That's why students themselves are the best line of protection.

The school takes many measures to ensure student well-being and safety, but this one is left to us. Trust is earned not given, so we as students need to make sure that we watch out for warning signs of potential violence of bullying in order to keep our online privacy.

Remember, as all the airport signs say, if you see something, say something.

# We can't deny climate change



by Danielle Kurensky

Something monumental happened last week. It might not have received adequate coverage as all of the country's eyes were on the Kavanaugh hearing, but I wonder if the story would have received more coverage if the hearings weren't taking place.

Or is it inevitable that some other story would cover it up because many Americans don't want to talk about it.

The story I'm talking about is on climate change.

On Oct. 1 the United Nations published a report stating that the world has until 2030 before we are going to witness significant effects of climate change.

If the global population works together and makes serious changes, we can stop these damages from taking place. But if we continue to pollute the world as we currently are, the results will be irreversible.

I assumed a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stating that we have two decades to save the fate of the world would be on the front pages of newspapers throughout the country, yet it seemed to pass by virtually unnoticed. Unable to comprehend

why this didn't garner more media attention, I remembered an important piece of information. The United States is still arguing about the legitimacy of climate change.

We can't even begin to make a significant environmental impact when leading members of government, including the president himself, haven't recognized climate change as an issue facing our country or the world.

There are two main arguments on climate change: one side believes that the increase in temperature is manmade, and the other believes that the earth naturally goes through hot and cold periods and this is just one of those times.

Despite the different viewpoints, one thing is undoubtedly true: temperatures are increasing.

Regardless if the increase in global temperature is manmade, the temperature has already increased one degree Celsius since the nineteenth century according to The New York Times. IPCC states that while it is seemingly inevitable that the world temperature will increase one and a half degrees Celsius, we need to do everything in our power to make sure that it only increases to that and does not increase to two degrees Celsius.

While an increase of half a degree may seem like a miniscule change, it can have a dire impact.

The difference between an increase of one and a half degrees and two degrees is an additional 23 percent of people being exposed to extreme heat, 61 million people

affected by water scarcity, and the doubling of species lost.

We are not talking about a change occurring centuries from now but rather a highly visible change we will witness at some point in our lifetimes, if not in the next two decades. There is no time to debate if climate change is real, we need to make a change now.

The U.S. is the second largest global emitter of greenhouse gases, second only to China. With our current policies and lifestyles, we are on a path to emit more greenhouse gases, but we are not officially doomed forever. We have the ability to change that path.

While this can seem daunting and many people feel that they can not make an impact, there are many things individuals can do to help combat climate change.

First and foremost, vote for people who propose legislation to lower our greenhouse gas emissions. Republican or Democrat, the future safety of our planet should not be a partisan issue.

From using reusable bags to shopping at thrift stores to buying more local produce, we can all take realistic steps to lower our carbon emissions.

Although climate change often seems like a concept that won't create problems until decades from now, these damages are coming and they are coming fast.

We cannot sit idly by and think about climate change when it is convenient for us. We need to act now because the future of the world

# Don't forget to remember



by Ezra Wallach

A couple weeks ago I couldn't fall asleep, and instead of watching "Black Mirror" or throwback SNL skits on YouTube to pass the time per usual, I chose an alternate, non-technology related route.

As I searched my bookshelves hoping to come across my favorite "Guinness World Records" book from 2007, I eventually uncovered my yearbooks from middle school and junior high.

At first, I was scared to open them, because I knew for sure that my picture in one of them had me looking like a lobster, but then I just started flipping the pages, laughing at how young and stupid some of my friends looked in their photos, and questioning how happy some people were to be in gym class.

When I thought I had just finished skimming the first yearbook, I came across the once blank pages that were now covered with signatures. I read through them, and then I picked up all my other yearbooks and read through the signatures in those, too. In this process, I started to question where

some of these people went because according to these signatures, we used to be tight.

Not only have I forgotten about those seventh grade social dances (that I later found out were not mandatory) or pizza Tuesdays at WJHS, but I also can't recall the people that I spent those times with. Relationships with people I've known not just before high school, but also during, have disappeared to the point where I don't even acknowledge them in the hallways.

I don't do these things consciously for the most part rather, I do them because I am extremely forgetful, and when I finally recall a relationship that I had, it often seems to be too late.

And that's kind of the story of my life--too often I fail to walk the talk because when it's actually time to act in the way I've told myself that I should, I forget to.

A lot of times I say stuff that seems like really good advice for other people, possibly in this paper or in other settings, but when it comes to myself, I fail to do what I've said I should.

I hope I'm not the only one who thinks that a lot of their resolutions are never fulfilled.

In a few months, the senior class will sign yearbooks for possibly the last time in our lives, and hopefully we will see some of these people and remember what we had before it all ends.

If just thinking about how approaching these people would be so much more appropriate in this setting, and how in that moment at the end of the year, it would feel like there was nothing to lose, then challenge yourself to do something before then.

Remembering these relationships will hopefully enhance the memories you have of high school, and if you choose to approach these people today, just know that there still won't be too much to lose.

Considering how forgetful I am, and how much I overthink actions, it's doubtful that I will actually ever be able to rekindle all, if any of these relationships myself--but if you can do it then you should.

Look around today and acknowledge who you like spending time with and who is important to you in this moment--maybe even write it down if you want. And when you are no longer being put in situations with this person, then make an attempt to keep a relationship.

I understand that the proposition of rekindling relationships at this point is scary, and that's why the best thing to tell ourselves today is "don't forget to remember from here on out." Don't forget to remember people, and don't forget to remember what you have told yourself you should do when it



## The New Trier News

Published Fridays during the school year by the students of New Trier Township High School, 385 Winnetka Avenue, Illinois 60093.

Correspondence may be directed to the New Trier News Office, Room 011, or by calling (847) 784-2278.

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